

**St Peter's, Ealing**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**  
**Easter 3**

**“Oh, how foolish you are!”**

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This marvellous story from the Gospel of Luke, of Two disciples walking the road to Emmaus is one of those ‘grounding’ stories we find through the gospels. It is one that stops us getting carried away on the hype and excessive joy of the resurrection.

We might be tempted to hang on to stories like the one from Acts today. Three thousand converts in one go! Amazing, joyous news. How the church must have already been growing – astonishing.

Yet here we have a little check, a little reality check. Two of Jesus’ followers, broken and lost, are found making their way some with a sort of “well, that’s that then” demeanour. We are told they had not quite got the whole picture yet. When approached by the risen Lord Jesus they are asked what their problem was. Agog that this bloke, this fellow traveller hadn’t heard what went on in Jerusalem that Passover they said, “Haven’t you heard, the authorities killed a great prophet who was mighty in word and deed”.

If that is all Jesus was then we would find his bones on the rubbish tips of Jerusalem and the story would come to an end. Cleopas and his friend, along with many other disciples, had not understood – not just the horror of his execution, but they’d not understood the words Jesus had uttered and the message of his three year ministry, the total of his teaching. Jesus’ reply, “Oh, how foolish you are.” Underlined his exasperation and he explained again what his life, death and resurrection actually meant, how his ministry was the completion of the salvation story told in the scriptures, how the prophets had spoken about his coming as Messiah and God’s intended action in the world for the salvation of creation.

Yet it was as Jesus blessed and broke bread the penny dropped. A light bulb moment came to them as their eyes opened. In the darkness of their hearts, broken by grief, light entered in and the truth of the Gospel shone out. That

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, came into the world to save sinners, to bring light and life to all who received him.

There are times when we are Cleopas and his friend. When the road we travel, full of the hustle and bustle of life, just seems dusty and forlorn even dark and painful. When perhaps we lose sight of Jesus and the Gospel, when we lose sight of the Good News of Jesus, when we forget what God is saying to us, when we don't hear or have forgotten to listen. When sometimes, lost in grief or confusion or fear we take our eyes off Jesus, and like Cleopas, turn in on ourselves.

Jesus walks along side us and asks us why we are so down cast, or lost, or broken. Jesus encourages us to look to the cross of Golgotha and the empty garden tomb. Jesus encourages us to listen for his word, hear afresh the Easter story of salvation, forgiveness and healing. We are encouraged to look to our Father and see in God our own completeness offered through the ministry and teaching of Jesus, in his word as well as in The Word. We should pray and share and look to God who will guide us and strengthen us.

We cannot yet come together to share in broken, blessed bread. We do not know when that may be. We must keep our hearts open to Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, revealing love and giving hope. Be reminded of these two, lost men, Cleopas and his fellow traveller. Once they opened their eyes they were filled with joy. Jesus walks with us today and everyday – glory be to God.